

## BERGER SAYS CAPITAL SLUMS ARE SHOCKING

**Declares they Cannot Be Duplicated by Any  
City in the Country.**

**ACCOMPANIED BY INSPECTOR HAYNES**

**Describes Result of Trip, in Which He Says He Saw  
Things Within Pistol Shot of Capitol that Are  
Worse Than Anywhere Else.**

### VIEWS OF CAPITAL'S SLUMS.

Slums of Washington are shocking. Worst resorts of city are in pistol shot of the United States Capitol. Municipal Lodging House of Washington is a joke. Rents pay ten times the value of houses in slums in four or five years. Will start work of reforms when fully acquainted with the conditions.—Representative Victor L. Berger, Socialist member House District Committee.

Representative Victor Berger, of Milwaukee, the Socialist member of the House District Committee, "is looking for a hole in 'Lady Washington's' stocking."

At least this is the way he epitomizes the purpose of the inspection and investigation of the Nation's Capital, which he announced shortly after his assignment to the House District Committee. Washington received the first installment of the search yesterday.

#### THROUGH THE SLUMS.

Mr. Berger started his first experience in a strenuous trip through the worst slums of the city. He characterized his trip as "positively shocking." He also visited the Municipal Lodging House. This institution, he says, is amusing in its absurdity. Although well managed, he considers the place far too small for a city of Washington's size. In comparing the lodging-houses of Washington and other cities, especially some in Europe, he says:

"The European houses take the appearance of hotels when set up beside ours."

The slums he thinks inexcusable. After a visit to Willow Tree alley, Army court, and Louise alley, Mr. Berger produced notes, which he claims, show the houses are paying some times as much as 25 per cent a year on the investment. He found in Willow Tree alley 171 white persons and 23 negroes, often living six or eight to a room.

In an interview, last night, Mr. Berger said:

"I did not want an appointment on the District Committee. I am in Congress as the representative of 80,000 Socialist voters, and my place on this committee cannot help them in any way. I want to do bigger things. By persuasion, I was induced to become a member of the committee, so now that I am on it I am trying to learn something about your city."

"It is impossible to learn a city from books and reports. I believe the method I have taken to be the proper one. Commissioner Judson kindly accompanied me on a preliminary tour of the city, in which I saw the beautiful parts. Yesterday I saw conditions within pistol shot of the Capitol which cannot be duplicated anywhere in the country."

"On this, my first real trip, I was accompanied by George S. Wilson, secretary of the Board of Charities, and Ray E. Haynes, secretary and inspector for the board of condemnation of insanitary buildings. My motives were prompted by a desire to see the sore spots in Washington."

"Clearly there is something wrong in Washington. As a member of the District Committee, I shall endeavor to find the trouble. My only fear is that my motives may be misconstrued. I am entering into this work for the purpose of doing all in my power to obtain better conditions."

"I am making extensive notes of my experiences. As I wish to back all my statements, I heartily agree with Jacob Rits in his assertion as to the awful conditions in the slums of Washington."

Mr. Berger spoke of the fight to have the alleys of Washington converted into minor streets. The expense of this was to be assessed on adjoining property.

"As I understand it, a fight to have these blind alleys improved was made in 1906," he said. "After a decision was reached, the matter was taken to the

## 21 ARE DROWNED.

**Steamer Sinks with Crew and Passengers in Storm.**

Oporto, Portugal, April 17.—The Spanish steamer San Fernand sank off Finisterre, Spain, to-day, with a loss of twenty-one lives. Four survivors were landed by the steamer Portimao. The San Fernand was bound from Huelva for Liverpool.

### D. A. R. EDITION.

The Washington Herald will contain complete reports of the D. A. R. Congress. Mailed to any address within the United States from April 16 to 23, inclusive, for 20 cents.

## D. A. R. STARTS CONGRESS WITH LIVELY SESSION

**Reception by Mrs. Scott Ends  
Opening Day.**

**TAFT URGES HARMONY**

**Unity and Peace Plea Made by  
the President.**

**Direct Declaration of War in  
Political Sense Features Address  
by Head of National Society, and  
Makes It Clear That She Does Not  
Want Second Term Unless by  
Unanimous Wish of Delegates.**

A brilliant reception by Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, president general of the D. A. R., assisted by Mrs. Donald McLean and other notables of that organization; a harmony speech by President Taft, in which he said the Daughters should work for unity and peace in their society, and a direct declaration of war, in a political sense, by Mrs. Scott were among the milder features of the opening of the twentieth Continental Congress yesterday in Continental Memorial Hall.

#### MAKES NOTABLE SPEECH.

President Taft, amid the flare of trumpets and the gleam and glitter of jewels, delivered one of the most notable speeches that has ever been given before a gathering of the society. He advocated peace at all hazards. The Chief Executive did not mince words. He told the Daughters that they must, following out their beautiful idea of patriotism, keep their internal dissensions within the bounds of common courtesy, and that under no consideration must they pay too much attention to the gossip of the political arena.

President Taft admitted he understood that in the greatest body—and most exalted in the United States—strife, as to their election of the president general was the great issue. He said that he could not discuss that phase of the situation because he took the part of a non-partisan and his sole wish was that the D. A. R. might know their bickerings and disagreements in a beautiful peace.

Many other things, the Chief Executive said, some of them bringing laughter to his hearers, especially along the lines of harmony.

"I congratulate you on the patriotic spirit of your organization," said the President. "The socialists of the past stand as an indication, as to what we should live up to to-day. I congratulate you on what you have already accomplished. The newspapers make much of

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## BOARD MEMBERS WHO FAVOR MERGER ARE IN MAJORITY

**Vote Indicates Reception to  
the Plan.**

**POSTALS BRING REPLIES**

**Legal Question Raised by Op-  
ponents to Movement.**

### POSITION OF DIRECTORS OF BOARD OF TRADE.

Milton E. Allen—Yes.  
Scott C. Bone—Yes.  
E. C. Brandenburg—Yes.  
W. A. Brown—Yes.  
A. B. Brown—Undecided.  
D. J. Callahan—Yes.  
W. A. H. Church—Undecided.  
H. B. Davidson—Yes.  
E. H. Drown—Yes.  
Arthur C. Moses—Yes.  
W. T. Gallher—Yes.  
John Joy Edson—No.  
J. L. Weaver—Out of city.  
J. Louis Willige—Yes.  
J. Miller Keayon—No.  
Dr. Frank E. Gibson—No.  
E. C. Graham—Yes.  
William F. Gude—Yes.  
Gen. George H. Harries—Out of city.  
Ralph W. Lee—Yes.  
C. E. Norman—Yes.  
Thomas C. Noyes—Undecided.  
D. S. Porter—Yes.  
W. H. Saunders—No.  
T. W. Stivers—Undecided.  
J. Henry Small, Jr.—No.  
G. W. F. Swartzell—Yes.  
S. W. Woodward—Yes.

Members of both organizations.  
Past director in Chamber of Commerce.  
Director in both organizations at present.

Of twenty-nine members of the board of directors of the Board of Trade, nineteen are in favor of the proposed amalgamation with the Chamber of Commerce. Of the remaining ten members, four are opposed to the proposition, four are undecided, and two were out of Washington yesterday. This is the verdict of a test vote taken by The Washington Herald.

#### INDICATES RESULT.

The vote, while it may not be called conclusive, may be taken as an almost certain indication of the reception the proposition will have from the membership of the Board of Trade when the proposition is submitted. Another "straw in the wind" of yesterday's developments was the overwhelming proportion of favorable replies to the return postal cards recently sent out by John B. Sleman, Jr., Julius Garfinkle, James Sharp, and Alexander Hensley.

The postals, which were mailed to the individual members of both organizations—1,231 in all—asked for a statement of the views of the receiver on the proposed amalgamation. Of those answered and returned yesterday, the figures were as follows:

For..... 168

Against..... 13

Undecided..... 5

That the proposal to merge the two organizations should receive so handsome a favorable verdict from the board of directors of the Board of Trade is taken as a sign of exceeding good omen. It is practically assured that the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce will support the proposition in a body. Practically all the opposition to the amalgamation is expected from the Board of Trade.

While the opponents of the merger are not flourishing it to any great extent, it is understood they are holding back as

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## CYCLONE KILLS 3.

**Children Caught Under Timbers of  
Ruined Home.**

Plumberville, Ark., April 17.—Three children were killed in a cyclone which passed over this town this morning. They were Charles Ward, thirteen years old; Carson Ward, ten years old, and Fred Ward, seven years old. The Ward house was blown nearly a quarter of a mile and demolished. Several other houses were damaged.

## CONGRESS FORCED TO INVESTIGATE MEXICAN TROUBLE

**President Is Powerless to  
Back Up Warning.**

**THE DOWNFALL OF DIAZ**

**Ambassador to Mexico Ordered  
to See Ruler.**

**Situation Is Serious—Taft's Order  
Disregarded—Mexico Makes No  
Reply—Wait for Congress—Stone In-  
troduces Resolution—Officials Show  
Keen Interest—Ambassador Bryce  
Visits White House.**

As a result of the battle waged at Agua Prieta by Mexican troops yesterday this government is confronted by the most serious question that has yet arisen between the two countries. The formal warning of the United States against the further jeopardizing of American lives on this side of the border line was disregarded in yesterday's engagement, and bullets from Mexican rifles again entered the town of Douglas, Ariz.

#### LIVES IN DANGER.

The United States government now finds itself in this position: It has served notice upon Mexico that the occurrences of April 13, at Douglas, in which two Americans lost their lives and eleven were wounded, must not be repeated. The Mexican government has not yet replied to these forceful representations, and in the meantime American lives on American soil have again been jeopardized by the firing of Mexican rifles.

In reply to a telegram from Gov. Sloan asking that means be taken by the United States troops to prevent firing across the Mexican border into the city of Douglas, Ariz., President Taft last night replied that the situation might justify sending troops across the border, but he would not take such action.

The President said this step would possibly cause resistance and further bloodshed, and there was danger of having the motive misconstrued, causing the Mexicans to attack Americans now in Mexico.

The request to send troops across the border at Douglas was declined, but the President asked Gov. Sloan to have the Douglas authorities use their power to direct the residents from the danger zone.

President Taft and his advisers have practically exhausted their powers in handling the situation, and if anything is to be done to back up the warning of the United States, it will have to come from Congress. The President's advisers have made it plain that Mr. Taft will not order a single American soldier across the border unless he is directed so to do by Congress.

The way was opened in the Senate yesterday for the expression of an opinion by Congress when Senator Stone, of Missouri, introduced a resolution proposing that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations investigate the situation and report to the Senate what, in its opinion, is the duty of the United States in the premises.

Senator Stone's resolution is entirely friendly to the Taft administration. The Senator is himself a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and is prepared to support the President's action

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## AMERICANS SHOT IN BITTER FIGHT FOR REBEL CITY

**Bullets Rain on Douglas When Federal Army  
Attacks Intrenched Insurrectos  
in All-Day Battle.**

**DIAZ TROOPS LEAVE MANY DEAD**

**Another Onslaught Expected This Morning—United  
States Army Powerless to Protect  
Lives of Citizens.**

By JOHN A. GRAY.

Douglas, Ariz., April 17.—After an all-day battle, the most terrific conflict that has thus far marked the Mexican revolution, victory tonight crowns the arms of the 1,000 rebels defending the border town of Agua Prieta. The desperate effort of the 1,600 Mexican national troops under Lieut. Col. Diaz to retake the city has failed, and the federals have suffered heavy losses in killed and wounded.

So far as Douglas was concerned, President Taft's demand that hostilities be conducted in a zone insuring safety to the Americans was utterly disregarded.

#### CITIZENS WOUNDED.

Throughout the long day's battle bullets rained incessantly in the streets and riddled the houses of the little Arizona town, and seven citizens suffered wounds in the continual storm of missiles.

Instead of fighting the battle in the desert, as they proposed, the rebels intrenched in and around Agua Prieta in such a fashion as to make hopeless Douglas' immunity from bullets, and the federal army, instead of attacking from the east or west, as has been promised, advanced from the southwest, which placed Douglas much in the same situation as the background of a target.

American troops did everything possible to protect the unfortunate Douglas residents. Spectators were driven back from the boundary line a distance of six blocks, but notwithstanding all their efforts, several persons were wounded. The inhabitants of Douglas, despite the obvious danger, were not to be denied the spectacle of battle. They crowded the roofs in vast throngs and darkened every point of vantage throughout the long hours of conflict.

That more were not wounded is surprising, but that any were wounded at all leaves Washington with a grave problem to face. So far as can be determined, when dusk stopped the fighting, the rebel loss was trifling, consisting of several scores wounded and about twenty dead, while the federal losses are estimated at more than 200.

In all particulars, the battle was a thrilling and dramatic novelty in this war of outposts. It began at dusk and continued at intervals throughout the day, marked by ferocious and determined battles on both sides and by a quality of valor not expected or hitherto displayed in this desultory internal war.

**Rebels in Trenches.**

The position of the rebels throughout was that of the defensive. Protected by intrenchments, they exacted a bitter price from the federal forces.

To-day's fight was a stand-up battle on the side of the federals, suggestive of the old shoulder-to-shoulder days of the American rebellion. In an open stretch of desert, the two forces exchanged a perpetual fusillade hour after hour that marked a conflict of exceptional ferocity and determination.

The long-expected attack of the Mexican troops began at daybreak. Throughout the night they had been encamped at Sulphur Springs, a water hole five miles south of Agua Prieta.

Under command of Lieut. Col. Porfirio Diaz, cousin of the President himself, the troops had vowed to revenge the descent of Red Lopez and his command on Agua Prieta.

Well armed and equipped and with three machine guns, the little army seemed well able to carry out its pledge. But they counted without the knowledge of the rebel trenches of the rebels which bisected the southwest and east fronts of the little town, and also with-

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## CROKER RESIGNS FROM CHIEF POST

**To Start Fire Prevention  
Crusade by Bureau.**

New York, April 17.—Edward F. Croker, nephew of Richard Croker, and head of the New York fire department for the past two years, resigned to-day for the ostensible reason of going into business for himself.

Fire Commissioner Rhinelander Waldo accepted the resignation with expressions of regret and informed the chief that he would be put on the department list of pensioners with an annual income of \$5,000.

The chief's resignation does not come as a surprise to those who have watched affairs in his department, particularly in the past few months. But there was a hint in his letter of resignation, in the manner in which it was accepted by the commissioner, or in the comments of either to indicate that their relations have been anything but satisfactory.

The chief said that though he had the keenest regret at separating himself from the men, who had been his special pride, he felt that he had a duty to perform. That duty was bound up in the annual fire waste in the United States of more than \$200,000,000.

He said fire fighting had been brought to a science in this country, but that fire prevention had been neglected, and that most of the disastrous fires in his experience could have been avoided if the right precautions had been taken.

It is his intention to organize a bureau, much on the lines of the private detective enterprises, to help the public steer clear of avoidable blazes.

The man who will be Chief Croker's immediate successor on May 1 will be Deputy Chief John Kenlon, who has been admiral of the city's fire boat fleet. He has been regularly in charge of the department in the absence or illness of the chief.

This appointment is not permanent. There are fifteen deputy chiefs, and all of them have the privilege of taking the civil service examination that stands between them and the top of the department.

## SELFIDGE HURT IN AUTO CRASH

**London Merchant and Fam-  
ily Escape Death.**

London, April 17.—While descending the Kirkstone Pass, near Ambleside, Westmoreland County, in an automobile containing Harry Gordon Selfridge, the London merchant, formerly of Chicago, his mother, wife, and daughter, the brakes of the machine failed to work and the car plunged with great force into the side of a house, throwing the occupants out and seriously injuring all of them.

Selfridge was picked up unconscious, and it is feared that he sustained a concussion of the brain. Mrs. Selfridge was badly cut and several bones of her forearm were broken. Mr. Selfridge's mother and Miss Selfridge sustained many cuts and bruises.

Special Values in Easter Lilies, Between 5 and 10-cents. Blackstone, 14th & 15.

## SCENE ON WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS.



Picture shows one of the several interesting groups of children and parents at the annual egg rolling yesterday.

## EGG ROLLING ENJOYED BY THOUSANDS OF TOTALS

**Annual Event Also Attended by Fond Parents—Po-  
lice Have Little Trouble in Preserving Order.  
Schemes to Gain Admission.**

One of the most successful of the annual Easter Monday egg rollings on the White House grounds was enjoyed yesterday by thousands of children, bent on making the event a never-to-be-forgotten holiday.

There was music for the grown-ups, furnished by the United States Marine Band. It was an orderly crowd. Capt. Daniel Sullivan, of the Third precinct, was on hand with twenty-four uniformed men, but as far as trouble is concerned one policeman could have done the work of the squad. President Taft, who was to have shown himself in the morning, was forced to disappoint the children, because of the D. A. R. Congress, and Mrs. Taft and Miss Helen Taft entertained a party of friends on the porch and watched the children celebrating.

Hundreds of adults were admitted to the grounds, although it was necessary for them to be accompanied by children. Otherwise they were not permitted to enter the gates. A number of urchins were professional substitutes, who, for a few pennies, readily consented to pose as "fond children" long enough to get their benefactors inside the much-sought inclosure.

Fashionable Washington was out in automobiles and carriages, which were lined about the grounds just outside the fence.

Capt. Sullivan estimated the crowd at 15,000, but it would be difficult to estimate the number of persons who visited the grounds during the entire day, as they came and went every minute.

After the crowd had gone a corps of workmen were kept busy cleaning up the scattered egg shells and paper bags that littered the lawn.